

November 16, 2016

Public Comment to the IPM Committee of Contra Costa County:

TRAINING & OUTREACH TO CITIES AND SCHOOLS IN CCC

I would like to see Contra Costa County, with more resources than PASE, facilitate some training for municipalities in our county for some of the toughest problems that trigger pesticide usage such as turf care, post-emergent weed control for replacing Round-Up, burrowing rodents, structural rodents, and insect problems. Would the county help get the word out to all the child care facilities and K-12 schools and encourage them to attend the organic turf workshop offered by PASE in January 2017?

Training for child care facilities and K-12 school districts is also badly needed. The California Department of Pesticide Regulation's survey discovered that most schools and child care centers were applying pesticides on a scheduled basis. This is unacceptable and unnecessary.

Also, as I've followed the county's progress in IPM, I wonder what the county has done to address the fact that some county service buildings are being leased and pest control is being done without the auspices of the county's IPM program. A case in point is the Hazardous Materials Building where the subcommittees meet on a monthly basis. PASE members, including myself, have observed Clark pest control apply pesticides around the building as we walk to the meeting. If this is the building that is housing the IPM Coordinator, wouldn't there be a bit more incentive to negotiate with the manager of the building to make sure our leased spaces are also under the county's IPM program? Shouldn't that be one of the criteria for lease negotiations? I have brought his concern up in the past without resolution and am addressing it once more with the new flux of community members who may see the issue as an important one.

I'd also like to see that posting is being done per policy. It was started a couple of years ago and I want to ensure that it is being done in all locations where human foot traffic is expected and children are playing or travelling to and from school.

Thank you for listening to my concerns. I hope that we can find solutions to protect wildlife and the community, particularly children.



Shirley Shelangoski  
Pleasant Hill resident  
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Good Morning, my name is Elizabeth Salmon-Omski and I am a resident of Walnut Creek.

I wish to extend my gratitude in seeing the progress made by the county in removing rodenticides from all county parks after four years of PASE's targeted campaign. I have dogs and two boys, and also do not want to see other pets and children poisoned. **The next step is to do the same in the open space and in the levees.** How does the county justify using rodenticides that cause secondary poisoning, applied above ground over thousands of acres each year? This seems so backward.

I also read your flowchart on **diphacinone toxicity** and found it lacking perspective in that it focuses on death as the measurement of toxicity. It's well known that poisoned animals become disoriented, they are less able to fight off disease, and they may not be able to hunt or care for their young. Death is not the only marker, although easier to track.

The rodent control method that is horrible in particular is the use of **glue boards** in the county buildings. I hope to see this deplorable practice stop before the beginning of the New Year.

Finally, I want to ask why did the County send its representative to the City of Walnut Creek's Park, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Commission meeting on December 14<sup>th</sup> last year with a pandering consultant telling the Commission that their IPM program was excellent? About 40 PASE members in the audience witnessed this spectacle of the county's representative and the desperate consultant looking for work. We just got through with explaining how risky it was to apply 2,4-D at dozens of parks on turf and ball fields. This was in Agent Orange used during Vietnam that caused so much illness.

One of the Commissioners on the PROS Commission, a real estate agent, provided an apparently coached speech of how salt was more toxic than pesticides being used. Upon adjournment of the meeting, this Commissioner bee-lined right over to Ms. Drlik and the consultant, and shook their hands vigorously with an expression of victory for successfully killing the community's attempt to inform the Commission.

I later found out that the CONTRA COSTA County stopped using 2,4-D in 2006 after PASE brought this to the attention of the Public Works Department. It would have been helpful if Ms. Drlik informed the PROS Commission that the Public Works Director eliminated 2,4-D because it was deemed to be too dangerous even for roadside spraying.

Fortunately, the PROS Commission did not have the last say and PASE ultimately convinced the City of Walnut Creek to begin posting and cease all 2,4-D use after we produced a study showing that men who apply 2,4-D become contaminated with 20x higher levels in their blood shortly after application, even when wearing protective equipment.

I wish to end my public comment with my favorite quote from Martin Luther King, Jr.

*Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable... Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals.*

Thank you!

Elizabeth Salmon-Omslu

Walnut Creek Resident

Nov. 16, 2016

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Public Meeting Comment  
By Christine Steck, Moraga resident

Dear Contra Costa County IPM Advisory Committee members:

My name is Christine Steck and I am an active member of the Mt Diablo and Golden Gate Audubon Society. We take great efforts to foster the survival of many bird species. Our efforts are being undermined by the Contra Costa County's use of rodenticides and subsequent secondary poisoning of raptors. The practice of widespread use of rodenticides needs to stop.

I have worked with Parents for a Safer Environment, PASE, for over a year now since I moved here temporarily from Germany and could not help but become involved. It is very surprising to me that in the United States where you are known to be more aware of the value of wildlife, that the Department of Agriculture and Public Works Departments are still applying rodenticides that are known to cause secondary poisoning.

This past weekend, nineteen PASE volunteers were at the 2016 San Francisco Green Festival educating the community about least toxic alternatives. Many of us dressed as honey bees informed people about safer alternatives to many pest problems and invited them to inform their schools and cities about the workshop that we are hosting on January 27<sup>th</sup> in Walnut Creek. Chip Osborne, a nationally sought expert on maintaining organic turf will be giving a 4 hour workshop to municipalities and school district staff who deal with weed control.

I hope that the representative here from the Grounds program will attend this program and also invite every staff member who also works to keep turf healthy and weed-free. The County IPM Policy instructs that the county shall provide IPM training four different times. Chip will be in Portland, Oregon the week before, and then he goes to Southern California, and then to Fairfield for a 2-day training on January 25 and 26. We were able to convince him to delay his flight back to Massachusetts and squeeze in a half-day training on turf maintenance in our county. The Fairfield training is also available and we encourage county staff to attend the more involved workshop.

However, if a 2-day workshop at \$800 per person is more difficult, then our 4-hour workshop at \$50, subsidized by Chip and PASE, is another option. Staff can register on the PASE website. The Acalanes Union High School has already provided a venue at the Adult Learning Center in Walnut Creek and the Superintendent has advised that he plans to send every landscape maintenance staff and a few managers. We hope that the county staff who have difficulty with weeds in turf take this rare opportunity to learn from Chip Osborne with a subsidized registration that is nearly free.

Thank you for your time,  
Christine

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "C. Hill", written in dark ink.